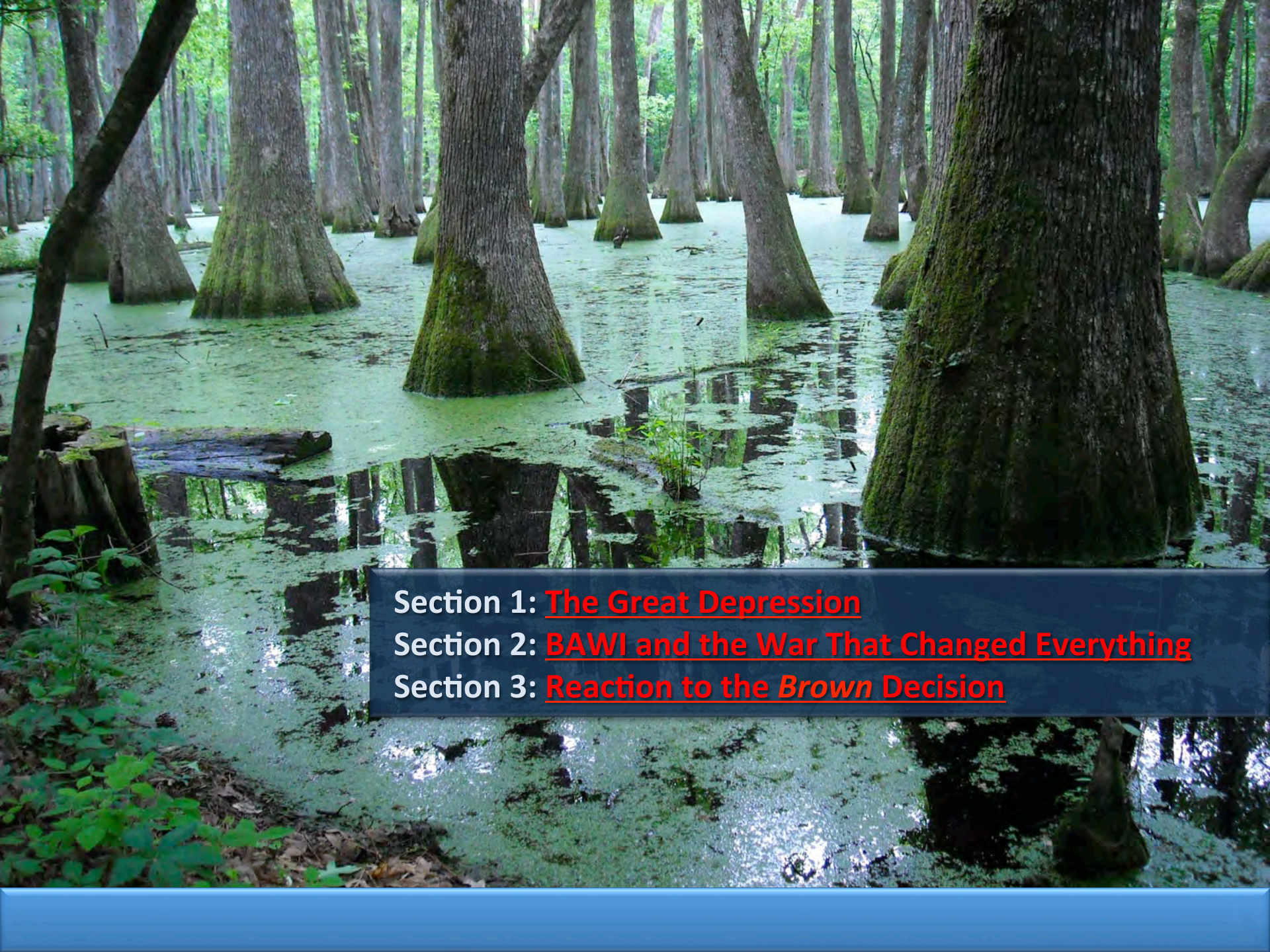


The image shows the Mississippi State Capitol building, a grand neoclassical structure with a large central dome topped by a golden eagle. The building features a prominent portico with tall columns and a pediment with a relief sculpture. The scene is set against a clear blue sky, with green trees framing the building. A large, stylized title is overlaid on the image.

# A Place Called Mississippi

Chapter 9: Conflict and Change, 1932-1960  
STUDY PRESENTATION





Section 1: [The Great Depression](#)

Section 2: [BAWI and the War That Changed Everything](#)

Section 3: [Reaction to the \*Brown\* Decision](#)



# Section 1: The Great Depression

- Essential Question: How did production, distribution, and consumption change as a result of the Great Depression?



# Section 1: The Great Depression

## ➤ What terms do I need to know?

- Panic of 1929
- Great Depression
- lint
- ginning
- boll weevil
- condensary
- fiberboard
- creosote
- turpentine
- sales tax



# Introduction

- Stock prices fell drastically and rapidly during the Panic of 1929 when the New York Stock Exchange collapsed.
- The United States experienced the worst depression in its history by the early 1930s, the Great Depression.
- Mississippi had already experienced economic trouble in the 1920s, so the depression of the 1930s hit the state especially hard.



# Boom, Bust, and Boll Weevils

- Mississippi farmers were prosperous at the end of World War I, because wartime demand had driven up the price of cotton.
- The end of World War I brought a decline in the demand and price of cotton, so many farmers had to work to pay off debt.
- Cotton production decreased in the 1920s, another problem for Mississippi farmers.
- Farmers could not maintain a decent standard of living given their income and the cost of seed, fertilizer, extra help, and ginning.





# Boom, Bust, and Boll Weevils:

## The Boll Weevil

- The boll weevil, a pest from Mexico, was the most serious threat to cotton production in Mississippi during the 1920s.
- The boll weevil lays its eggs in a cotton boll, and the boll is eaten once the weevils hatch.
- By the 1920s, the boll weevil had destroyed thousands of acres of cotton.



A boll weevil feasts on a cotton plant.

# Boom, Bust, and Boll Weevils: Wet Weather

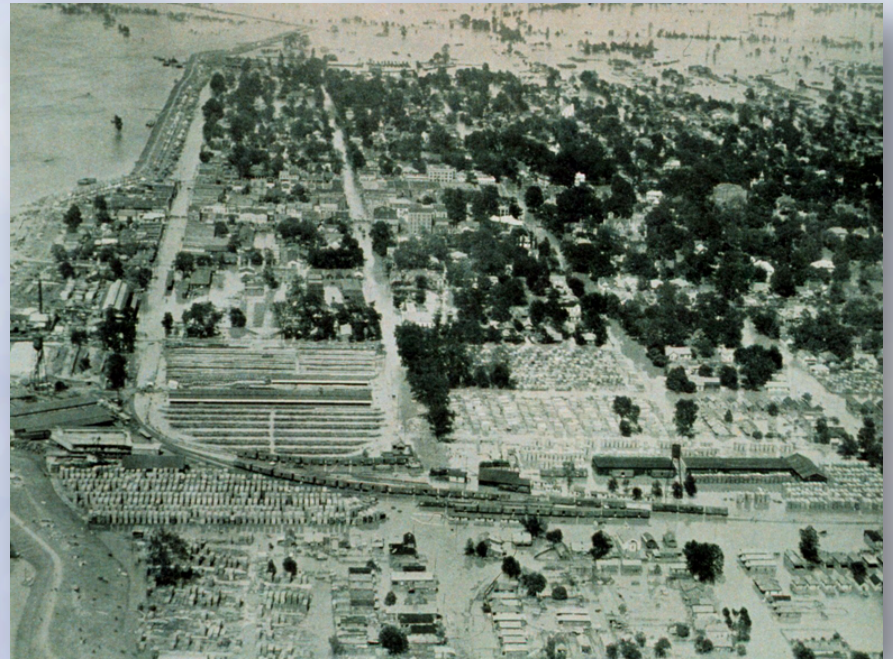
- In 1919 and 1920, annual rainfall was several inches above normal in Mississippi.
- The boll weevil multiplied rapidly during these years.
- Methods that were meant to control the boll weevil in dry seasons did not work well during wet seasons.





# Boom, Bust, and Boll Weevils: The 1927 Flood

- 1927 was the wettest year on record in Mississippi, not from rainfall, but from the Great Flood on the Mississippi River.
- The Great Flood on the Mississippi River costs the state an entire crop.



Greenville is shown here flooded in 1927.  
Click image for a larger view.

# Tenants and Sharecroppers

➤ Crop failures forced many farmers to sell their land.

*Wealthiest*

**Landowners**

top of the system; owned property worked by others



**Renters**

rented a certain number of acres at a fixed price from a landowner; free to plant the crops they thought would make the most money

**Tenants**

provided their own tools, seeds, animals, and fertilizer; worked land for a certain share of the crop; the landowner controlled most of what was grown but could grow their own food

**Sharecropper**

provided labor and benefitted from a smaller share of the crop than a tenant farmer; the landowner controlled most of what was grown but could grow their own food



*Poorest*

**Day Laborer**

hired by landowners or renters during specific seasons when extra help was needed





# Livestock and Dairying

- With the decline of cotton in the 1920s, some farmers saw promise of a better livelihood in livestock and dairying.
- Livestock was important to the economy of the South before the Civil War, but its recovery had been slow since the war.
- An increase in livestock and dairy cattle provided well for a number of Mississippi farmers.
- Creameries, cheese plants, and a condensary at Starkville were established in Mississippi.



# Canning Industry

- Vegetable farming provided another alternative to cotton production.
- Effort was made in the 1920s to develop a canning or processing industry to provide jobs to Mississippians, but industry growth was slow.
- There were very few canning plants functioning in Mississippi, but the largest of those was a pickle factory.





# Lumber Products

- Lumbermen were warned about using up forest resources too quickly, but ignored the warnings, so the natural resource was exhausted by the 1920s.
- A faster-growing pine tree was developed, as well as a paper mill and a process to make fiberboard for wood paneling.
- L. O. Crosby Sr. found it profitable to use the pine stumps left behind after the lumber boom had passed.
- Creosote and turpentine from the tree resin could be used to produce other things.
- Workers who made products from tree resin were adversely affected by the depression of the 1930s, and many workers were laid off.



# Manufacturing

- Following the election of James K. Vardaman in 1903 for governor, manufacturing in Mississippi entered a period of decline; he did not promote industrial development.
- Henry L. Whitfield made an attempt to expand manufacturing during his 1924-1927 term, but his efforts failed.
- There were less manufacturing jobs in the 1920s than there were in the 1930s.





# Economic Reform and Recovery

- The condition of Mississippi's economy was the main issue during the 1931 governor's election.
- Governor Theodore G. Bilbo's attempts to issue revenue bonds were unsuccessful, and the state debt increased.
- Martin S. Conner was elected governor in 1931; he promoted a program of rigid economy, a balanced budget, and industrial development.



# Administration of Martin S. Conner, 1932-1936

- Governor Martin S. Connor was determined to improve Mississippi's national image and to develop a more balanced economy.
- He believed that the only way for Mississippi to change its image and improve its economy was to elect honest men who conducted themselves like businessmen.
- Governor Connor promoted new and expanded industries as means of recovering the state's economy, as well as the reorganization of county governments.
- He implemented the rigid economic measures he promised before his election.





# Administration of Martin S. Conner, 1932-1936: Sales Tax

- Mississippi required additional revenue, even after cutting expenses elsewhere, so Governor Connor proposed a sales tax to bring in more money.
- Merchants, who would collect the tax, were opposed to it because they believed it would reduce their sales.
- There were arguments between the rich and the poor about the unfairness of the sales tax.
- Others were in support of the sales tax, especially educators, who thought that it would help save the public school system.
- The sales tax was implemented, and the income from it was used to balance the state's budget.



# Administration of Martin S. Conner, 1932-1936: Governor Conner's Accomplishments

- By the time Governor Connor left office in 1936, he had paid off \$12 million in debt and had more than \$3 million in the treasury.
- Governor Connor increased jobs thanks to industrial development, and he encouraged laborers and small farmers that prosperity came with factories rather than farms.
- Governor Conner went on to be the first commissioner of the Southeastern Conference in 1940.





# Section 2: BAWI and the War That Changed Everything

- Essential Question: How did the world conflict cause changes in the lives of people in Mississippi?



# Section 2: BAWI and the War That Changed Everything

- What terms do I need to know?
  - farm-to-market roads
  - urbanization
  - civil rights movement





# Introduction

- The Balance Agriculture with Industry (BAWI) program and WWII greatly affected Mississippi.
- New industry increased the income of Mississippi citizens dramatically.
- In the years that followed WWII, most servicemen and women settled in towns, and blacks and women pressed their demands for equal opportunity and social justice.



# Hugh L. White's First Administration, 1936-1940

- Governor Hugh L. White promised to continue to develop industrial growth in Mississippi.
- White admitted that he was not a professional politician, but he had once saved his city from economic collapse.
- Hugh L. White was elected governor in 1935.





# Hugh L. White's First Administration, 1936-1940: Balance Agriculture with Industry (BAWI)

- The Great Depression had convinced Mississippi voters that industrial development was their only chance for economic recovery.
- In 1935, Hugh L. White was mandated to introduce a Balance Agriculture with Industry program.
- The Industrial Commission and the Advertising Commission were created to implement the law.
- Tax exemptions, an abundance of raw materials, and the availability of low-wage labor made Mississippi attractive to northern industries looking for additional factories.



# Hugh L. White's First Administration, 1936-1940: Ingalls Shipbuilding

- Ingalls Shipbuilding, located at Pascagoula, was the most important industry attracted to Mississippi under the BAWI program.
- Ingalls was considered a heavy industry, and it paid higher wages than light industry.
- Mississippi towns benefitted from the new plants attracted to the state under the BAWI program.



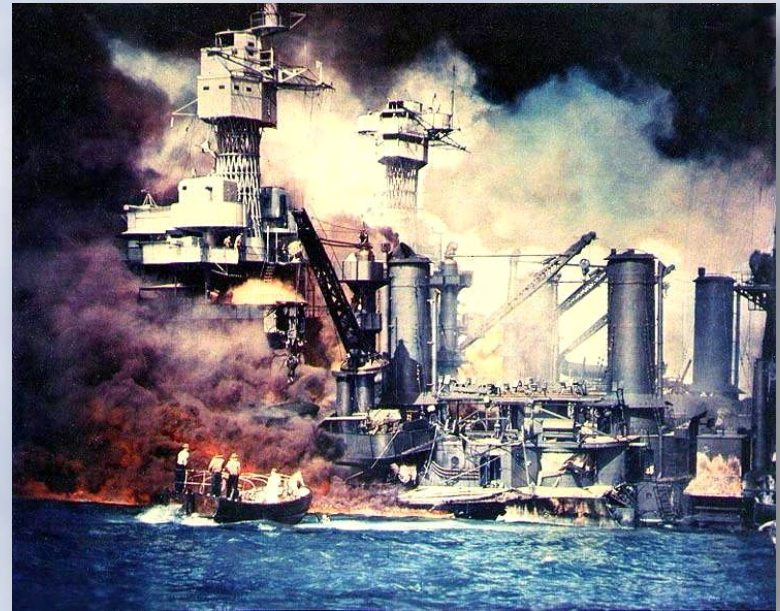
This modern U.S. Navy ship, the *USS Essex*, was built in Pascagoula.





# World War II

- World War II brought significant changes to the state of Mississippi, good and bad.
- The war ended the Depression in Mississippi and restored prosperity to the state and the nation.

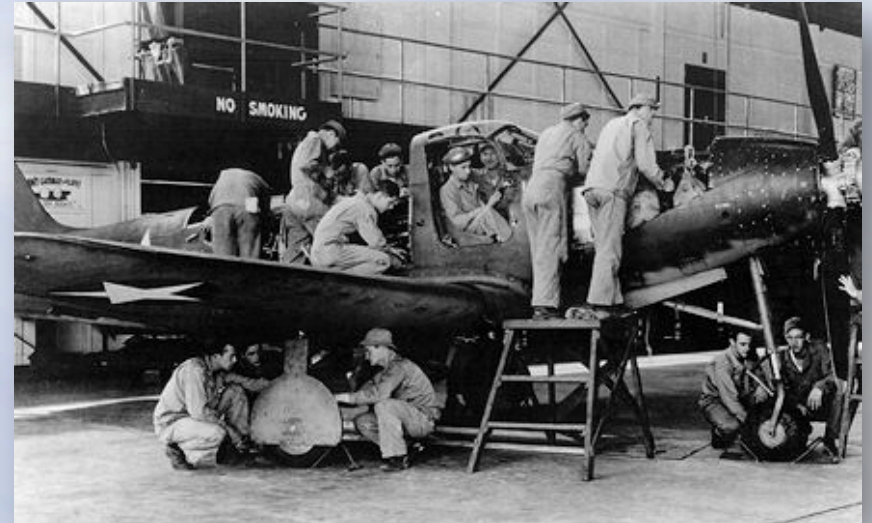


The Japanese attack on the American Navy at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii pushed the U.S. into World War II.



# World War II: Camp Shelby and Keesler Army Airfield

- Mississippi's mild climate was well-suited for military installations, especially airfields and training camps.
- Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, and Keesler Army Airfield in Biloxi, were two of the nation's largest military bases.



Flight mechanic training at Keesler Army Airfield, 1942

# World War II: Nisei Troops at Camp Shelby

- Several Japanese Americans, known as Nisei troops, volunteered for service in the military during WWII.
- Many Nisei troops were stationed at Camp Shelby in Mississippi for combat training.
- Daniel K. Inouye received a Congressional Medal of Honor and went on to serve in the United States Senate.



# World War II: Other Military Installations

- Smaller military bases were established at Columbus, Greenville, Clarksdale, Meridian, Laurel, Grenada, and others.
- A flight school in Jackson and several prisoner-of-war camps were maintained in Mississippi.





# Administration of Thomas L. Bailey, 1944-1946

- Governor Thomas L. Bailey took advantage of the industry attracted to Mississippi.
- During his term as governor, the Agricultural and Industrial (A&I) Board was established, as well as the Mississippi Marketing Commission.
- Governor Bailey also promoted a farm-to-market roads system which made it easier for farmers to get their products to market.



# Urbanization

- Wartime demand for manufactured products quickened the growth of Mississippi's towns and cities.
- New industrial jobs drew thousands of people from rural areas to urban areas.
- Many servicemen and women settled in towns and cities, rather than returning to farms.
- Urbanization improved economic conditions and social customs of Mississippi.



# Nellah Massey Bailey

- Nellah Massey Bailey was the first woman elected to a statewide office in Mississippi.
- After her husband, Governor Thomas L. Bailey, passed away, she was appointed state tax collector.
- Nellah ran for office and received more than half of the popular vote.
- She was reelected in 1951 and 1955.





# The Dixiecrats

- President Harry S. Truman showed renewed interest in and attention to the civil rights movement.
- Southern reaction to President Truman's interest in civil rights led to the Dixiecrat movement in 1948.
- Southern Democrats left the Democratic Party and formed the States' Rights Democratic Party, commonly called the Dixiecrat Party.
- J. Storm Thurmond was nominated as president of the party, and Fielding L. Wright was nominated as vice president.



# Section 3: Reaction to the *Brown* Decision

- Essential Question: How did changes in government affect the civil rights of people in Mississippi?



# Section 3: Reaction to the *Brown* Decision

- What terms do I need to know?
  - Citizens' Council
  - double jeopardy clause
  - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
  - Resolution of Interposition
  - State Sovereignty Commission





# Introduction

- Race had not been a significant political issue during the Great Depression and World War II, but postwar conditions rekindled the race conflict.
- Resistance among southern whites revived old racial hostilities.
- Mississippi's political leaders were aware of the increasing tensions and unrest among blacks.



# Hugh L. White's Second Administration, 1952-1956

- Governor Hugh L. White was elected over eight other candidates.
- Governor White continued to stress the industrial development he promoted during his first administration.
- Because of the success of his industrial program, Mississippi prospered economically for a decade.
- But even throughout that decade, the state's per capita income remained the lowest in the nation.



# Hugh L. White's Second Administration, 1952-1956: School Consolidation

- Governor White implemented a massive, unpopular school consolidation program during his second term.
- Parents and citizens sometimes turned to violence as means of showing their disapproval for the closing of local schools.





# Hugh L. White's Second Administration, 1952-1956: Attempt to Create Equal Facilities

- Governor White pushed for equalization of black and white schools in Mississippi, because he wanted to avoid federal court intervention.
- Trying to upgrade black schools proved costly, difficult, and unreasonable.
- Trying to establish “separate-but-equal” facilities in Mississippi was nearly impossible.



# The *Brown* Decision of 1954

- The Supreme Court ruled that the “separate-but-equal” principle violated the Constitution on May 17, 1954.
- One year after *the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* decision, public schools were meant to be desegregated with “all deliberate speed.”
- White Mississippians were shocked by the *Brown* ruling, and they were determined to prevent its implementation by any legal or constitutional means.



# The Citizens' Council

- A group of white citizens met with the purpose of preventing the implementation of the *Brown* decision in July of 1954.
- The Citizens' Council spread from Indianola, Mississippi, to other parts of the state and the South.
- Robert B. Patterson became the executive secretary of the Mississippi Association of Citizens' Councils, which boasted 80,000 members by 1956.





# ***Black Monday***

- Soon after the *Brown* decision, Judge Tom P. Brady wrote a book titled *Black Monday*, and it was published by the Citizens' Council.
- Judge Brady declared that the Supreme Court ruling was not valid or binding, and he suggested that authorities work to prevent its implementation.
- In December 1954, Mississippi voters approved a constitutional amendment that authorized getting rid of the public school system altogether if it meant preventing desegregation.



# The Murder of Emmett Till

- Some consider the murder of fourteen-year-old Emmett Till the crime that started the civil rights movement.
- While visiting relatives in Mississippi, Emmett Till went with his cousins to a grocery store and whistled at the white woman who owned the store.
- Till was kidnapped, beaten, and murdered.
- Roy Bryant, husband to the grocery store owner, and J. Q. Milam were charged with the murder and found not guilty initially.
- Both men admitted they were guilty of the murder in a magazine, but they could not be tried again because of the double jeopardy clause.



# The Murder of Emmett Till: Dr. T.R.M. Howard (1908-1976)

- Dr. T. R. M. Howard was a surgeon and a founding member of the Regional Council of Black Leadership.
- He conducted an extensive campaign to gather information that might be used to bring the Till murders to justice.
- Howard gave speeches nationwide about the Till murder and racial violence.





# The Murder of Emmett Till: Aaron Henry (1922-1997)

- The Emmett Till murder elevated Aaron Henry as a leader among African Americans in Mississippi.
- He was the founding member of the Regional Council of Black Leadership, and he joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).
- Henry became president of the Mississippi Chapter of the NAACP, and formed several civil rights organizations in the state.
- He reaped the benefits of his efforts to bring equality to Mississippi, and he was elected to the state legislature in 1996.



# Election of James P. Coleman, 1955

- School consolidation, a new state constitution, economic developments, and race relations were important issues during the 1955 campaign.
- James P. Coleman, a “racial moderate,” was elected governor after an unusual campaign.



# Administration of James P. Coleman, 1956-1960

- Governor Coleman was in favor of a new state constitution, and he promised to continue school consolidation and maintain school segregation.
- Governor Coleman was unable to gather much support for a constitutional convention in Mississippi, because many feared that the convention might spark disunity and disharmony among whites.





# Administration of James P. Coleman, 1956-1960: The Resolution of Interposition

- The Resolution of Interposition was passed in 1956.
- It interposed the state sovereignty of Mississippi between the Supreme Court's ruling on school desegregation and the implementation of that ruling.
- Governor Coleman disapproved of the interposition.
- The Resolution of Interposition also repealed the law that required all school-age children to enroll in and attend school.



# Administration of James P. Coleman, 1956-1960: State Sovereignty Commission

- In 1956, the legislature established a State Sovereignty Commission to prevent the violation of the federal government against the rights of Mississippi and other states.
- Members of the Commission included the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, speaker of the House, and other appointed prominent leaders.

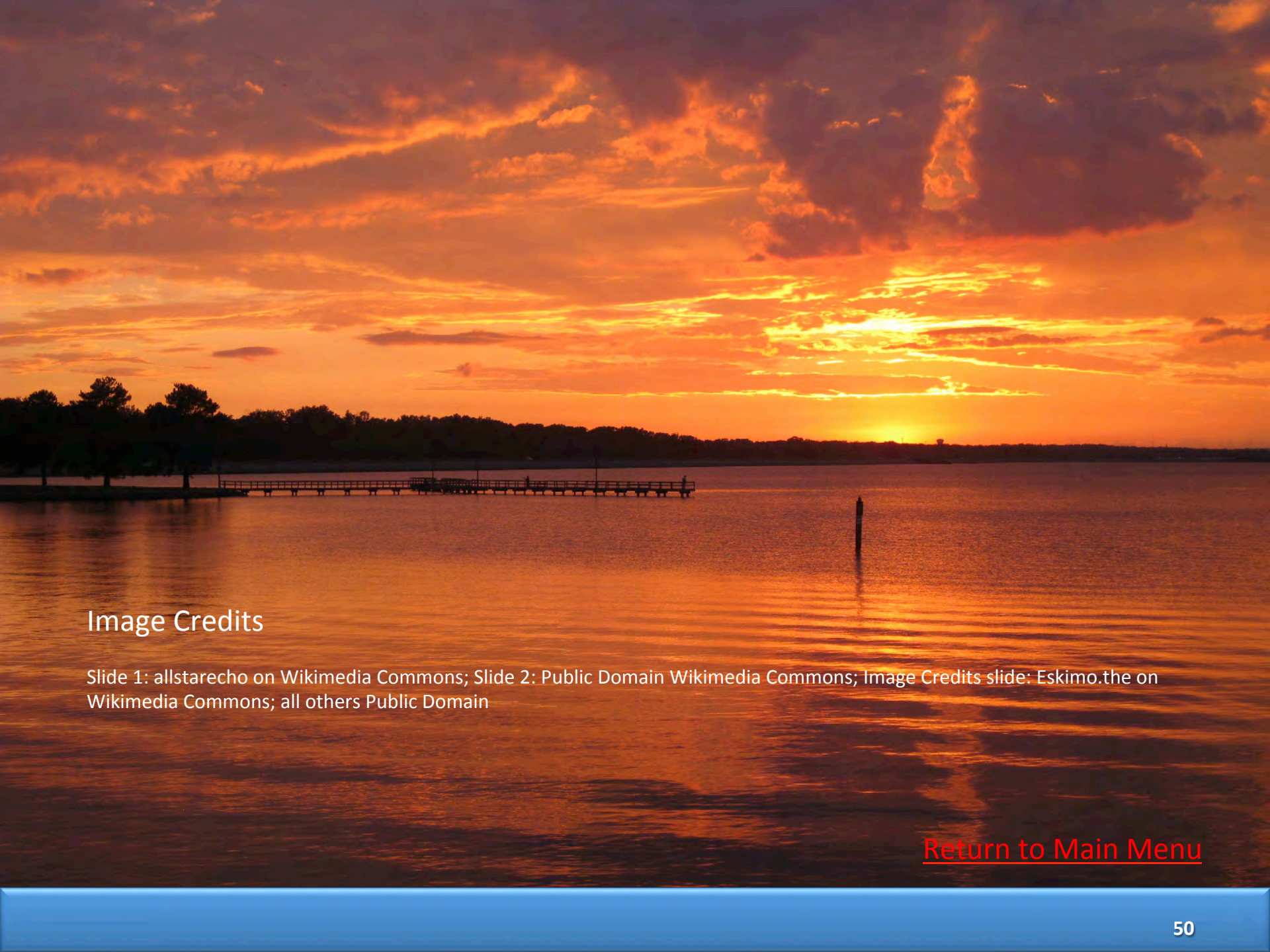


# Administration of James P. Coleman, 1956-1960: A Yankee General in the State Capitol

- During Governor Coleman's administration, there was controversy surrounding a portrait of former Union general, Governor Adelbert Ames.
- The portrait hung in the Hall of Governors in the state capitol building.
- Governor Coleman said that the people of Mississippi should distinguish between the Hall of Fame, which celebrated outstanding citizens, and the Hall of Governors.
- The shocked response felt by people was a reflection of their potential reaction to social and racial changes in the early 1960s.







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